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March 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Questions and Answers on Laos

The President has directed that priority attention be given to the development of responses to the questions and issues related to his statement on Laos which are included on the attached requirement sheet. The agency responsible for the development of the information and the deadline for submission of your responses is delineated under each question or issue.

The President has also requested that the responses be transmitted to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs over the signature of the Secretary whose department has primary responsibility for the development of the information.

Henry A. Kissinger

Attachment

MORI per pages 2-4  
C03322671

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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HAK:AMH:mlh:3-9-70

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON LAOS

1. What is the total number of American civilians (direct-hire and contract) killed in Laos since July 1962?

-- Name and date of death

-- Agency

-- Individual's role

-- Circumstances of death (i. e., hostile action or accident).

Responsible Agency: State in coordination with CIA & DOD

Due Date: By Noon March 10

2. Same as question one, for total American military personnel excluding air combat casualties.

Responsible Agency: DOD in coordination with State and CIA

Due Date: By Noon March 10

3. It has been asked why the deaths of U. S. airmen killed in air operations over Laos have not been reported separately. Up to this point, U. S. spokesmen have stated that these casualties are included under the Southeast Asia summary. Guidance is requested as to whether or not we should maintain this line or whether the Administration should make a commitment to provide these casualty figures on a weekly basis in the future.

Responsible Agency: DOD

Due Date: By Noon March 10

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4. The same question as 3 above has been asked with respect to U. S. civilian and military fatalities due to hostile ground action in Laos, excluding border clashes along the Laos-South Vietnam border. Should we provide these casualty figures on a weekly basis in the future?

Responsible Agency: DOD

Due Date: By Noon March 10

5. The question has been asked whether or not the figures revealed by the President on Friday, March 6, include all personnel who may come into Laos on TDY or brief visits in connection with official duties from Thailand and elsewhere. A response to this question should be provided, together with the average number of personnel in this category by month for the past 6 months.

Responsible Agency: DOD

Due Date: By Noon March 10

6. The press corps has requested a break-out of the costs of our operations in Laos. This information has not been provided in the past and it appears that it would be inadvisable to provide it at this time. Your recommendations on this issue are requested.

Responsible Agency: DOD

Due Date: By Noon March 10

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